

## U-S<sup>2</sup>TEM Scholars

### U- Sustainability Science Technology Engineering and Math Scholarship Program



#### Overview

- The U-S<sup>2</sup>TEM Scholars program is a joint initiative between the University of Utah's Global Change and Sustainability Center and the Center for Science and Mathematics Education that is aimed at increasing the number of outstanding and diverse undergraduate students who graduate with degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields that focus on the environment and sustainability. Scholars will be supported through mentoring, a cohort of peers, research opportunities, curricular enhancements, and scholarships (up to \$38,600 over 4 years, awards based on academic merit and financial need). The U-S<sup>2</sup>TEM Scholars program is a multidisciplinary program that explores how various scientific and engineering fields interact, thus preparing scholars to address significant global challenges related to the environment and sustainability.

#### Scholarship Program

- Scholarship funding:
  - Up to \$9,650 per year for each of 4 years towards tuition, fees, room and board, and supplies
  - Eligibility for additional housing funds (up to ~\$5,000/year) in association with the Honors College housing
- Mentoring and cohort building:
  - One-on-one faculty mentoring opportunities
  - Fall retreat and spring symposium
  - Opportunities for affiliation with the Honors College
  - Academic advising
  - Orientation and cohort-building experiences
- Opportunities for research:
  - Introduction to STEM faculty conducting environment and sustainability-related research
  - Opportunities to conduct undergraduate research (including funding)
  - Supplemental funds available to support travel to a national professional meeting in the STEM discipline
- Curricular enhancements:
  - U-S<sup>2</sup>TEM Seminar (1 credit / semester)
  - Opportunity to participate in the undergraduate Sustainability Certificate program

#### Qualifications

- Must be an undergraduate accepted to the University of Utah with a declared major (or intent to declare a major if a new freshman) in the:
  - College of Science,
  - College of Mines and Earth Science, or
  - College of Engineering
- Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Have demonstrated financial need
- Have an interest in pursuing an environment and/or sustainability related field

## Continued Funding Eligibility

- Requirements for continued annual funding
  - Maintained GPA of 3.0 or higher (will be checked each semester, mandatory advising)
  - Continued full-time progress towards degree in CoS, CMES, or CoE
  - Participation in Summer Orientation and Spring Symposium
  - Enrolment and participation in U-S<sup>2</sup>TEM Scholars Seminar course (at least 80% attendance)
  - Meet with faculty mentor at least 4 times / semester
  - Note: If student does not meet these expectations, they will be placed on probation for 1 semester while they receive additional mentoring, advising, and counseling support. If expectations are still not met, funding will not continue the following year.
- Recommendations for scholars
  - Take advantage of the opportunity to affiliate with the Honors College
  - Enhance undergraduate degree by enrolling and receiving an Undergraduate Sustainability Certificate
  - Take advantage of opportunities to engage first hand in research
  - Attend a national professional meeting in the STEM discipline (funding available)

## Application Process, Deadlines, and Acceptance timing

- Apply to the University of Utah via the general undergraduate application system by **Feb. 1, 2015** (General Deadline).
  - <http://admissions.utah.edu/apply/>
  - Applicants are encouraged to apply by the Honors Priority Application Date of **Nov. 1, 2014**, or the Admissions Priority date of **Dec. 1, 2014**.
- Complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form via the University of Utah Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships by **Jan. 15, 2015**
  - <http://financialaid.utah.edu/grants-and-loans/>
  - Complete the U-S<sup>2</sup>TEM Scholars Program online application (<http://environment.utah.edu/students/undergrad.html>) by **Feb. 1, 2015**
  - *Application includes the following:*
    - Expected family contribution and financial need (FAFSA worksheet)
    - Explanation of other factors that will impact financial need
    - GPA
    - Resident / non-resident status
    - ACT/SAT test scores
    - Description of honors and awards, athletic participation, leadership roles, activities (including volunteering), work experience, and any special circumstances that may have affected academic achievement
    - Transcripts (upload unofficial transcripts)
    - Original essay (1 page) about interest in environmental science and sustainability
    - 2 Letters of recommendation (in template form) from teachers, professionals, or youth leaders who can speak to your qualifications
- Students who are being considered for the program may be contacted for interviews in **March 2015**
- Fall 2015 U-S<sup>2</sup>TEM offers will be made beginning in **April 2015**

**Questions? Contact Brenda Bowen ([brenda.bowen@utah.edu](mailto:brenda.bowen@utah.edu))**